

A RESOLUTION BY PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000 AND TO BE MATCHED WITH NO MORE THAN \$100,000 TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO ENHANCE POLICE RESPONSE TO MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, A number of offenders charged with quality of life offenses in the City have been identified as having a history of mental illness, substance abuse, or both, and

WHEREAS, many of the problems associated with the large number of mentally ill offenders may be traced to the ongoing policy of de-institutionalizing mental patients, many of whom wind up living on the streets as part of the homeless population, while others wind up being incarcerated in local jails and state prisons, and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Police Department wishes to implement a program to divert mentally ill offenders from the criminal justice system, and

WHEREAS, the diversion program envisioned by the Atlanta Police Department will complement the proposed mental health court which is intended to become an element of the Community Court, and

WHEREAS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a component of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services is now accepting grant applications for three year programs to divert mentally ill offenders at the pre-booking stage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section one: That the Mayor is hereby authorized to apply for and accept grant funding from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for the purpose of establishing a program within the Atlanta Police Department to divert mentally ill offenders to treatment programs rather than processing them through the criminal justice system.

Section two: That matching funds, not to exceed \$100,000 are available in the Non- Departmental section of the 2002 General Fund Budget and may be used to fulfill the matching requirements of the grantor.

TRANSMITTAL FORM FOR LEGISLATION

To Mayor's Office:

Mr. Gregory Pridgeon

(for review and distribution to Executive Management)

Chief of Police Signature

From: Originating Dept.

POLICE

Deputy Chief Signature:

Contact (Name):

William B. Shannon

Dan Boozer 817 - 6782
or Deputy Chief W. B.
Shannon 853 - 7290

Committee(s) of Purview:

PUBLIC SAFETY

Committee Deadline:

Committee Meeting

Date(s):

City Council Meeting

Date:

CAPTION:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000 AND TO BE MATCHED WITH NO MORE THAN \$100,000 TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO ENHANCE POLICE RESPONSE TO MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE/DISCUSSION:

THE ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT SEEKS TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO DIVERT MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS OUT OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM PRIOR TO INITIAL BOOKING BY MEANS OF REFERRAL OF SUCH OFFENDERS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING OF POLICE OFFICERS TO MORE EFFECTIVELY DEAL WITH THIS POPULATION.

FINANCIAL IMPACT (if any):

NEED TO MATCH WITHUP TO \$100,000 IN LOCAL FUNDS (ALREADY BUDGETED).

PERSONNEL IMPACT:

NONE.

Mayor's Staff Only

Received by Mayor's Office (Date):

Reviewed (Initials):

Date:

Action by Committee:

____ APPROVED ____ ADVERSED ____ HELD ____ AMENDED
____ SUBSTITUTE ____ REFERRED ____ OTHER